

07-07-09

Park Board members,

My apologies for not being able to make Monday's meeting night. As you requested I am providing a report on the status of Hart Park after May 1, 2009. Attached you will find 2 pages which describe every call for service from the police department to any park in Menasha from May 1, 2009 through July 7, 2009. The far right column is the report number column which indicates whatever the officer was investigating it rose to a level which necessitated additional documentation likely for follow-up or current/future arrest consideration or to document damage etc. It is also a quick way of seeing which calls were most important.

In the last 2 months the police have responded to all parks 74 times. Please note that if you are looking at the Skate Park you will need to view the locations listed as Hart Park AND Skatepark since apparently we use both terms when the clerk enters the call. 22/74 (roughly 30%) total calls stemmed from incidents at the Skatepark. At face value it is not entirely alarming until you see the IncCode (Incident Code) column which documents: weapon, disturbance(5), hazard, harassment and drugs. I further sifted all of these to determine who was the reporting party in the calls for service and found that only 2 of the 22 calls were reported by paid staff. Those calls were a lost found call and a juvenile complaint. All of the disturbances, drugs etc were reported by park users or passerbys.

This year the police department and park department have been in communication about the park supervisor position. Currently, the park department is hiring a peer or young adult and in the course of a normal background check is not entitled to see their juvenile criminal record which likely could provide great insight into the character of the young adult. The police department recommends a different approach to this monitor program by bringing an adult figure into the park. It is the park users themselves and Stan Sevenich who both indicate that the mischief doesn't occur when there is an adult presence. I would highly recommend that the Park Board and Department weigh carefully that suggestion.

Lastly, I have heard complaints in the ranks of patrol officers that the current supervisors are not wearing their staff shirts. A few times in particular a park supervisor seemed surprised to see police who were called to stop a fight observed by someone driving by. The park monitor had no idea what was going on either because he didn't want a friend to get in trouble or because he was so busy playing basketball he did not observe what was happening around him. I am told by patrol officers that this is not a rare occasion. The combination of the Family Dollar lot, skatepark and basketball courts have really created congestion in that small area. As you know I have made the statement before that from a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design perspective one of the best ways to achieve change to an unsafe area is to bring a safe activity. Unfortunately this is probably not a great time financially for the City to invest significant dollars to revamping the park and adding an additional feature.

I believe strongly that the park monitor program has worked effectively in the past and can work again in the future. The challenge is hiring an individual(s) with natural leadership skills. Since the park department does

not get access to juvenile arrest records we suggest looking to hire an adult. As members of the Park Board pointed out earlier this park does attract teenagers and some people have the perception that all teenagers are bad. In reality, most of the teenagers also do not want to have to deal with harassment, drugs, weapons or fighting either. The police department has also allotted directed patrol to the Hart Park area and as soon as our K-9 unit arrived several car loads of kids decided to leave. Regardless of your decision on the basketball hoops I surmise our next and equally important challenge is to make changes to the environment to discourage the park users from parking in the privately owned Family Dollar lot and interfering with their business and customers. I firmly believe that if we could find the right person to monitor the park we could easily affect permanent change to the area without manipulating the environment. Adding a human layer of security is costly but in this case would be less than the costs associated with fencing, adding an additional "safe" activity, and web enabled security cameras an alternative approach. The patrol still advises that the problems documented are more closely related to the basketball courts and not the skaters.

## Other items to note are:

The weapon complaint listed involved a caller who drove through the Family Dollar lot to see a male parked near the basketball hoops holding a handgun. After numerous hours of investigation we learned that it was an air soft gun which very closely resembles a real firearm.

The harassment complaint involved a group of kids who were hanging out and began name-calling and then ended up punching a girl in the face twice. None of the individuals involved were there to skate. Officers also relayed that a group of kids flashing gang signs were kicked out of the pool and went directly to Hart Park.

We recently requested park eviction on 2 juveniles. 1 eviction will stand. The other eviction will not stand due to the juvenile not being found guilty. Her caseworker (this means she has a history of criminal offenses) recommended that although the actions were unacceptable the juvenile was willing to participate in mediation with the other party to resolve their differences but since the other party refused to participate this juvenile should not be held responsible entirely and recommended to the DA that the charges be dropped. I mention the above to further demonstrate the juvenile justice system does have the final say in whether we hold people responsible or recommend that the whole situation be dismissed. Unfortunately for us, since the two people have not resolved their differences and now have suffered no consequences for their unacceptable and illegal actions I am not sure what will prevent them from replicating the incident.

Lastly, our Summer intern is busy working on a community survey in District 5 which may also shed some light on the attitudes and perceptions of some of the parks in Menasha. I will certainly share the results of that survey when they are compiled.

In Service.

Jeff Jorgenson

09-2003 09-2533					****		
09-200 09-253	BOAT PARKING TICKET ISSUED		THIRD	5/4/2009	PARKIN	4:47:22 PM	MP090504004688
09-200 09-253	UNFOUNDED	JEFFERSON PARK		5/29/2009	NOISEC	10:06:50 PM	LMP090529005882
09-200	CLEAR W/REPORT	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	7/4/2009	LOSTFO	11:38:00 PM	LMP090704007621
09-200	VERBAL WARNING	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	7/2/2009	TSTOP	10:36:00 AM	LMP090702007475
	VANDALISM	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	6/2/2009	DAMAGE	12:34:50 PM	LMP090602006013
	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/28/2009	SUSVEH	4:56:57 AM	LMP090528005767
09-1979	ASSIST OTHER JURISDICTION	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/31/2009	ASSIST	3:21:00 PM	LMP090531005947
filefinos von	SHORT FORM	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	7/2/2009	JUVENI	8:43:47 PM	LMP090702007494
***************************************	SHORT FORM	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/24/2009	SUSVEH	1:46:51 AM	LMP090524005609
	CLEAR	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/18/2009	CRIMEP	7:05:28 PM	LMP090518005337
		JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/16/2009	ASSIST	11:45:46 AM	LMP090516005205
09-1741	CLEAR W/REPORT	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/16/2009	ALCOHO	5:02:43 AM	LMP090516005194
09-2549	CLEAR W/REPORT	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	7/5/2009	DISTUR	8:56:14 PM	LMP090705007671
		JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/12/2009	SUSVEH	12:53:09 AM	LMP090512004999
	SHORT FORM	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/10/2009	DISTUR	7:10:38 PM	LMP090510004943
	FOUND PROPERTY	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/9/2009	LOSTFO	4:37:51 PM	LMP090509004900
	SHORT FORM	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	7/4/2009	MISSIN	8:14:16 PM	LMP090704007598
	SHORT FORM	JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	7/4/2009	ASSIST	9:11:37 PM	LMP090704007601
		JEFFERSON PARK	915 THIRD ST	5/19/2009	ORDINA	4:33:12 PM	LMP090519005386
	VERBAL WARNING	HECKRODT WETLAND	1305 PLANK RD	5/25/2009	SUSSIT	3:36:53 PM	LMP090525005660
	CANCELLED/VOID	HECKRODT #1	1305 PLANK RD	5/26/2009	WELFAR	1:15:05 PM	LMP090526005704
09-1857	CLEAR W/REPORT	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/23/2009	SUSPER	9:09:28 PM	LMP090523005585
09-1532	CLEAR W/REPORT	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/4/2009	DISTUR	8:58:31 PM	LMP090504004699
•••••	CLEAR	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/8/2009	HAZARD	8:57:28 PM	LMP090508004870
	TRAFFIC CITATION	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	7/3/2009	TSTOP	10:45:26 PM	LMP090703007561
		HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/11/2009	CRIMEP	3:25:13 PM	LMP090511004979
09-1710		HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/14/2009	ORDINA	5:57:13 PM	LMP090514005102
	SHORT FORM	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/26/2009	NOISEC	8:22:24 PM	LMP090526005725
		HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/21/2009	LOSTFO	6:30:58 AM	LMP090521005461
	UNABLE TO LOCATE	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	6/1/2009	ASSIST	7:51:00 PM	LMP090601005992
	EXCEPTIONAL CLEARED	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/24/2009	ASSIST	8:07:45 PM	LMP090524005629
09-2505	UNFOUNDED	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	7/2/2009	DISTUR	8:11:04 PM	LMP090702007492
	SHORT FORM	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	7/2/2009	JUVENI	6:14:27 PM	LMP090702007490
	SHORT FORM	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/30/2009	SUSVEH	10:51:31 PM	LMP090530005922
09-1985	CLEAR W/REPORT	HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	5/31/2009	WEAPON	8:09:29 PM	LMP090531005958
ann dachtan con		HART PARK	730 SEVENTH ST	6/2/2009	MISCEL	8:40:32 PM	LMP090602006031
	SHORT FORM	FRIENDSHIP TRAIL	80 BROAD ST	5/2/2009	SUSSIT	6:20:59 AM	LMP090502004596
09-1622	CLEAR W/REPORT	FRIENDSHIP TRAIL	80 BROAD ST	5/9/2009	MISCEL	10:43:59 PM	LMP090509004912
09-1768	CLEAR W/REPORT	CLOVIS GROVE PARK	1000 VISGRO ST	5/18/2009	DAMAGE	9:34:11 AM	LMP090518005321
09-1982	CLEAR W/REPORT	CLOVIS GROVE PARK	1000 VISGRO ST	5/31/2009	DISTUR	5:17:43 PM	LMP090531005953
	SHORT FORM	CLOVIS GROVE PARK	1000 VISGRO ST	5/8/2009	SUSSIT	9:37:38 PM	LMP090508004872
	EXCEPTIONAL CLEARED	CLOVIS GROVE PARK	1000 VISGRO ST	5/2/2009	PARKIN	3:39:37 PM	LMP090502004611
09-1863	CLEAR W/REPORT	CLOVIS GROVE PARK	1000 VISGRO ST	5/24/2009	JUVENI	7:45:52 PM	LMP090524005627

SMITH DARK
SMITH PARK
SMITH PARK
SMITH PARK
SMITH PARK
SKATE PARK
MUNICIPAL BEACH
MUNICIPAL BEACH
KOSLO PARK
JEFFERSON POOL
JEFFERSON PARK NW C
JEFFERSON PARK BOAT
Location Notes:

Survey a

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